

DACR

Danish American Cultural Retreat



PROGRAM

June 26 - 28, 2015
Menucha Retreat and Conference
Center, Corbett, OR

Sponsored by



Northwest Danish Association



Der er et yndigt land

Der er et yndigt land,
det står med brede bøge
nær salten østerstrand :|
Det bugter sig i bakke, dal,
det hedder gamle Danmark
og det er Frejas sal :|

Der sad i fordums tid
de harniskklædte kæmper,
udhvilede fra strid :|
Så drog de frem til fjenders
mén,
nu hvile deres bene
bag højens bautasten :|

Det land endnu er skønt,
thi blå sig søen bælder,
og løvet står så grønt :|
Og ædle kvinder, skønne mø'r
og mænd og raske svende
bebo de danskes øer :|

Hil drot og fædreland!
Hil hver en danneborger,
som virker, hvad han kan! :|
Vort gamle Danmark skal
bestå,
så længe bøgen spejler
sin top i bølgen blå :|

There Is a Lovely Land

There is a lovely land
with spreading, shady *beeches*
Near salty eastern shore :|
Its hills and valleys gently fall,
its ancient name is Denmark,
And it is *Freja's* hall :|

There in the ancient days
sat armoured Vikings rested
Between their bloody frays :|
Then they went forth the foe to
face,
now found in stone-set
barrows,
Their final resting place :|

This land is still as fair,
the sea is blue around it,
And peace is cherished there :|
Strong men and noble women still
uphold their country's honour
With faithfulness and skill :|

Hail king and fatherland!
Hail every Danish person,
who does what work he can! :|
Our olden Denmark shall
endure,
as long as the beech reflects
its top in the blue wave :|



Danish American Cultural Retreat

2015 Danish American Cultural Retreat Daily Schedule

***All DACR events are held in Creevey Commons,
unless otherwise noted.***

Friday, June 26, 2015

11:00 a.m. - DARC Registration Opens – **Creevey Commons**

Noon – Lunch – **Wright Hall**

1:00 p.m. – Danish National Anthem – Wright Hall

1:15 p.m. – Menucha Orientation – **Creevey Commons**

1:30 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Comments

**1:45 p.m. – Dr. Michael Halvorson, Tacoma, Washington. –
*The Renaissance in Europe: Humanists, Artists, and
Innovators***

2:45 p.m. – Coffee Break / Singing

**3:15 p.m. - Dr. Michael Halvorson, Tacoma, Washington. –
*The Renaissance in Denmark: Triumphs in Art, Literature,
and Science***

4:30 p.m. - Nature Walk – Gather outside **Creevey Commons**

6:00 p.m. – Dinner – **Wright Hall**

**8:00 p.m. - Evening Entertainment – Danish Film: *Keeper
of Lost Causes (Kvinden i Buret)***

8:00 p.m. - Party in the "Kro"

Saturday, June 21, 2014

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast - **Wright Hall**

9:00 a.m. - Kyle Dittmer, Portland, Oregon – *Nicolas Steno: Founder of Modern Geology*

10:00 a.m. - Coffee Break / Singing

10:30 a.m. - Dr. Bob Fahrner, Mercer Island, Washington – *The History and Influence of Beowulf*

Noon - Lunch – **Wright Hall**

1:00 p.m. - Dr. Bob Fahrner, Mercer Island, Washington – *Group Reading and Discussion of Beowulf*

2:00 p.m. - Coffee Break / Singing

2:30 p.m. - *Update on the Nordic Heritage Museum, Status of Their New Building and Upcoming Exhibits*

4:00 p.m. - Field Trip to Latourell Falls – Gather outside **Creevey Commons**

6:00 p.m. - Dinner – **Wright Hall**

7:00 p.m. – Pre-performance beverages – **Creevey Commons**

7:30 p.m. - Evening Entertainment – Performance by Danish comedian/magician Henrik Bothe

9:00 p.m. - Party in the "Kro"

Sunday, June 22, 2014

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast – **Wright Hall**

9:00 a.m. - Singing / Sunday Fellowship – **Creevey Commons**

9:30 a.m. - Henry Geijsbeek, Kent, Washington – *History of Scandinavian Airlines, SAS*

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. – Line Larsen, Seattle, Washington – *Danish Happiness and Values Today* – **Creevey Commons**

11:45 a.m. - Sonja Kromann and Edith Christensen – *The Danish American Cultural Retreat: Discussion and Evaluation* – **Creevey Commons**

Noon – Lunch – **Wright Hall**

1:00 p.m. - Flag Lowering – **Wright Hall**

2015 Danish American Cultural Retreat Presentation Abstracts

FRIDAY – Session 1 – 1:45–2:45 p.m. – *The Renaissance in Europe: Humanists, Artists, and Innovators*, **Dr. Michael Halvorson**, Associate Professor of History, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington.

This fun and fast-paced introduction to the Renaissance examines the major innovations of the Renaissance from its beginnings in Italian city/states to later cultural, political, and scientific achievements in France, Spain, England, and Scandinavia. By examining original sources and introducing retreat participants to new research and important debates, this fun opening session provides an exciting introduction to the Renaissance age. The session asks two central questions: Firstly, what are the essential features of the Renaissance movement that gradually transformed Europe in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries? Secondly, how many of these cultural, artistic, and intellectual transformations continue to influence modern societies today?

FRIDAY – Session 2 - 3:30–4:30 p.m. – *The Renaissance in Denmark: Triumphs in Art, Literature, and Science*, **Dr. Michael Halvorson**, Associate Professor of History, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle, Washington.

Now that Retreat participants know a little about the general contours of the Renaissance in Europe, this second session goes deeper into the specific events and energies of the Renaissance movement that transformed Denmark in the 16th and 17th centuries. Participants will learn about the Oldenburg kings in Denmark, who established an impressive Renaissance state including Denmark, Norway, Iceland, the Færø Islands, Slesvig Holstein, and parts of modern Sweden. Religious reform, painting, poetry, history writing, educational reforms,

and scientific research were all striking achievements of this golden age. How many of these achievements can we still see at work today?

SATURDAY – Session 1 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – *Nicolas Steno: Founder of Modern Geology*, Kyle Dittmer, geology instructor at Portland Community College and Marylhurst University, Portland, Oregon.

Nicolas Steno was Danish scientist, who was a pioneer in both anatomy and geology. Born Niels Stensen in Renaissance Denmark in 1638, his name was later Latinized to Nicolas Steno, as was common practice for academics of the day. Nicolas Steno initially studied medicine and anatomy, starting in Copenhagen and moving on to a number of European cities before settling in Italy. He made significant contributions in anatomy and paleontology, before moving on to geology. Nicolas Steno developed founding principles relating to stratigraphy and is considered the founder of modern geology. Although he was raised as a Lutheran, Steno later converted to Catholicism and eventually turned away from the study of science to theology, eventually becoming a Catholic Bishop.

SATURDAY – Session 2 – 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 – *The History and Influence of Beowulf, Old English Epic Poem*, Dr. Robert Fahrner, The Beowulf Project, Mercer Island, Washington.

In the first of his two part presentation, Dr. Fahrner will review the history and significance of *Beowulf*, an Old English epic poem that is considered one of the most important works of Old English literature. Written in England sometime between the 8th and 11th centuries, its author was an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet. Set in Scandinavia, *Beowulf* features Beowulf, a hero of the Geats, who comes to the aid of Hrothgar, King of the Danes under attack by the monster Grendel.

The poem was not studied until the 18th century when it was first translated into Latin in 1815 and then into Danish, the first modern language translation, by N.F.S. Grundtvig in 1820.

SATURDAY – Session 3 – 1:00–2:00 p.m. – Discussion and Readings from Beowulf, Dr. Robert Fahrer, The Beowulf Project, Mercer Island, Washington.

In this session, Dr. Fahrer will lead a group discussion interspersed with reading sections of *Beowulf* from the translation by Irish poet, Seamus Heaney. Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* includes the original Old English Anglo-Saxon text and Heaney's translation into modern English. In addition to readings from *Beowulf*, there will also be a comparison with other translations including that done by J.R.R. Tolkien.

SATURDAY – Session 4 – 2:45-3:45 p.m. – An Update on the Nordic Heritage Museum

This presentation will discuss recent and upcoming exhibits, programming, and activities at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, Washington. We will also learn more about the status of the Nordic Heritage Museum's new building which is to be built at a new location off Market Street in the Ballard neighborhood, historically the center of Scandinavian settlement in Seattle.

SUNDAY – Session 1 – 9:30–10:30 a.m. – History of Scandinavian Airlines, SAS, Henry Geijsbeek, Kent, Washington.

Henry will discuss Scandinavian Airlines or SAS, previously Scandinavian Airlines System. SAS was founded in 1946 and is the flagship carrier for Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. SAS is the largest airline in Scandinavia. Henry will provide a history of SAS within the larger context of Danish and Scandinavian aviation.

SUNDAY – Session 2 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. – Danish Happiness and Values Today, Line Larsen, Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, Washington.

In recent years, Denmark has been touted among one of the happiest places on earth, based on reports by the United Nations and other international organizations. Research has been carried out on the reasons behind the levels of happiness in Danish society and a number of books and articles have been published with the results. The high level of Danish happiness is attributed to a good work-life balance and relatively low expectations, but other factors include the high level of equality in Danish society, universal healthcare, education, and care for the elderly and disadvantaged. There is also a high level of trust and freedom in Denmark, all of which contribute to their high happiness scores.



View north from Menucha to Signal Rock

About the 2015 DACR Speakers

Henrik Bothe is a native of Denmark who began entertaining at the early age and was mesmerized by plate-spinning acts on The Ed Sullivan Show. Henrik attended the Aarhus Theater Academy study the performing arts and later got his professional start in Europe when he teamed up with David Gomez in the 80s to form the comedy duo “Twist and Shout.” Later in the decade, they relocated to the United States, joining the thriving “New Vaudeville” scene in San Francisco. There Henrik was introduced to the world of Improvisational Theatre by Keith Johnstone, an influence that follows him to this day. In the early 90s Henrik moved to Seattle and headlined as an entertainer for all major cruise lines. During that time Henrik engineered “Neonman”, a glow-in-the-dark optical illusion that has taken him all over the world for TV appearances and is now a major component in his show. During this period, Henrik created his own plate spinning routine. One of the biggest motivations for Henrik to become a performer/juggler was watching the Ed Sullivan Show on television growing up. Gene Siler who produces “A Really Big Shew” which is a tribute show to Ed Sullivan says: “Henrik’s plate spinning act is as good as people remember the original plate spinning act. When an act can compete with people’s memory of one of the funniest acts they ever saw you know you have a winner.” Performance highlights include appearing on Garrison Keillor’s “A Prairie Home Companion,” The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, and on Europe’s most widely viewed variety show “Le Plus Grande Cabaret du Monde” in Paris. Today Henrik performs physical comedy as a professional entertainer for corporate, local and national events. When Henrik isn’t performing solo he either tours theaters in the US with Woody Keppel in “Foolz,” a duo show for all ages, or performs with Steve G as “The Bellini Twins,” an act with a “late night” feel. Henrik currently resides in Portland, Oregon with his wife and family where he performs locally, leads team-building workshops and teaches a circus arts program in metro-area schools.

Kyle Dittmer lives in Portland, Oregon and is a professional scientist who has taught university science courses for over 20 years. In addition to teaching, Kyle also works as a Hydrologist and Meteorologist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Since connecting with his Danish roots a number of years ago, he has been very active in the Danish community in the Portland area. Kyle has served as the Master of Ceremonies and note-taker for the Danish Cultural Conference, now the Danish American Cultural Retreat, and also helps lead the nature walks and local excursions.

Dr. Robert Fahrer is of Germanic, English and Scottish descent - i.e., nearly completely Anglo-Saxon, as are Danes. But for him, only a DNA search can settle the issue - and he intends to have it so! He was raised on the plains of North Dakota with Swedes, Norwegians and Germans pressing in from all sides. He directed a Middle East Studies

program while with the U.S. Air Force and then received his Ph.D. in Education - with a sole emphasis on the dynamics of higher education, and held three positions in the higher education environment before attaining his current position of Senior V.P. - Financial Advisor with a major international investment firm. He will be retiring shortly after a quarter century in that profession and has a variety of interesting plans. Why Beowulf? His heritage! And, remarkably, the one page of the original Beowulf manuscript open to display in the British Library in London, England, which leapt from its hermetically sealed case a few years back, threw Bob to the floor, and growled in his face in old Anglo-Saxon that he had better take up Beowulf's torch. How could he refuse!? Bob's spouse is a psychoanalyst, his son an attorney, and daughter a veterinary ophthalmologist, and are all just terrific human beings. He lives on Mercer Island, Washington.

Henry Geijsbeek is a lifelong aviation enthusiast and photographer. Henry's mother is from Denmark and he spent summers with his grandparents in Kalundborg growing up. He holds his private pilot's license, has taught ground school, and has held many jobs in the aviation industry. He currently works for Boeing and lives in Kent, Washington.

Dr. Michael Halvorson is an associate professor of History at Pacific Lutheran University and the author of *The Renaissance: All That Matters* (McGraw-Hill, 2015), a fast-paced introduction to the Renaissance movement in 15th- and 16th-century Europe. Professor Halvorson earned his Ph.D. at the University of Washington and is an award-winning writer and teacher. He frequently offers courses at PLU on the Viking Age, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and Western Civilizations. Halvorson is also a member of the Scandinavian Area Studies Committee at PLU; his family tree includes a number of enterprising pioneers from Norway, Sweden, and Germany who homesteaded in the 19th century and put down deep roots in Minnesota and South Dakota. He currently lives in Seattle with his wife and two children.

Line Larsen is a recent graduate of Roskilde University and new employee at Northwest Danish Association. Line grew up in southern California, then completed her undergraduate education at the University of Washington. Line is multilingual, speaking Danish and Spanish as well as English. She began working at the Northwest Danish Association in April and has been working to add new programs and increase outreach to the NWDA membership. She resides in Seattle, Washington



Latourell Falls

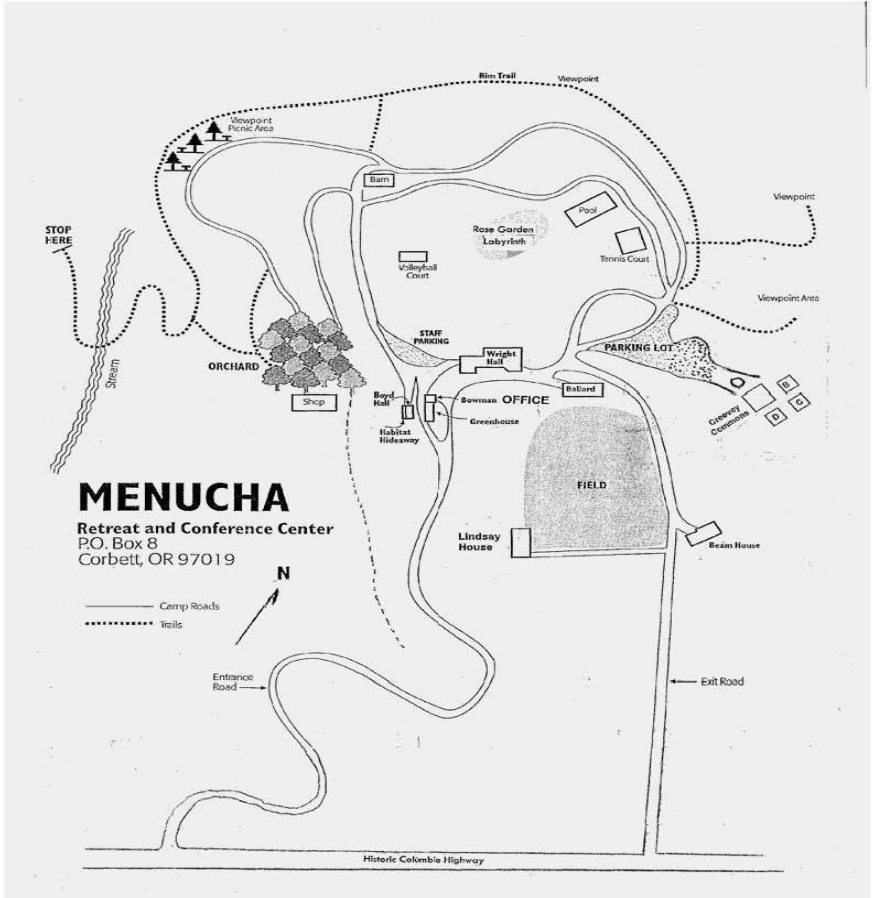


View of Vista House at Crown Point from Menucha



Dannebrog at Wright Hall

MENUCHA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER SITE MAP



Menucha daytime assistance - (503) 695-2243

Menucha afterhours emergencies - (503) 866-2485

Sonja Kromann, DACR Coordinator - (425) 359-0919